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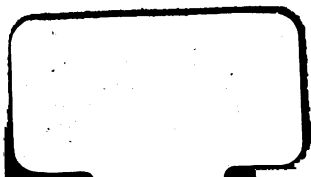
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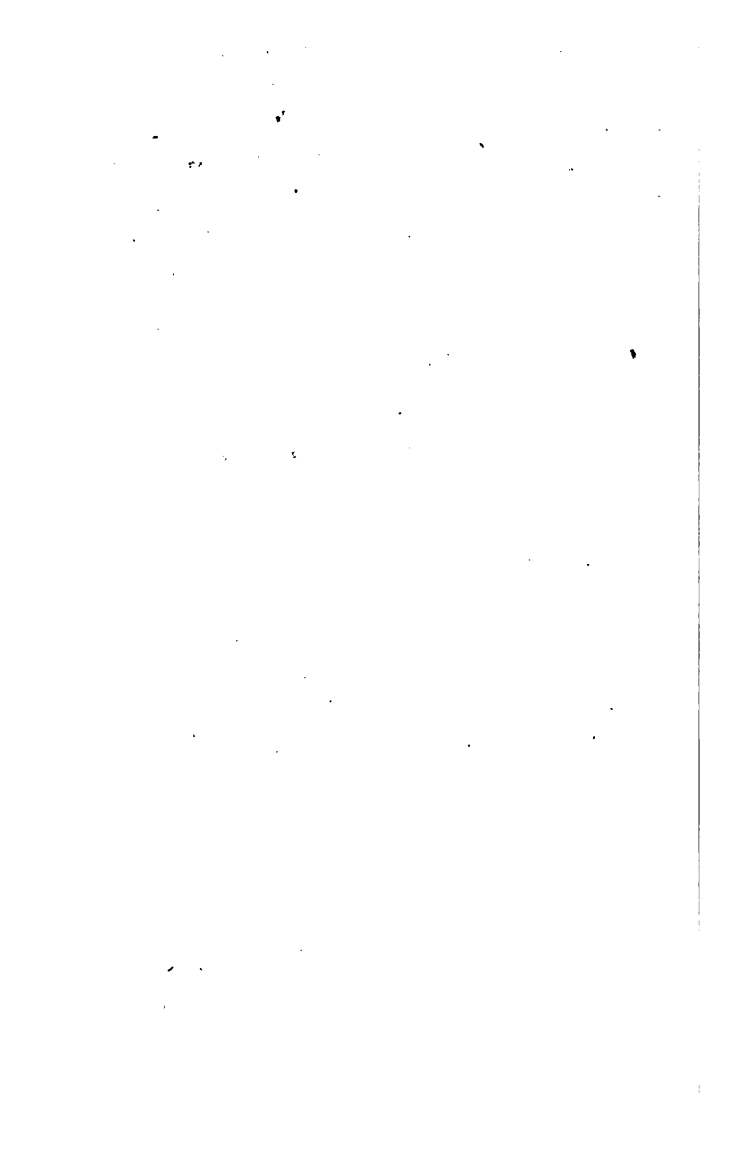


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Breathings after God.

PRAYERS FOR THE CLOSET.

BY A LAYMAN.

"Hide not thine ear at my breathing."

LAM. iii. 56.

PART I.

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JOHN F. SHAW, 27, SOUTHAMPTON ROW,
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The following OPINIONS *are so striking and valuable, as showing the great importance of Prayer and attention to religious duties, that they have been selected as a suitable introduction to the Prayers.*

“Prayer is as essential to the soul as breath is to the body. It is one of the first acts of spiritual life, and there is nothing by which we may at any time form so correct an estimate of our spiritual condition, as by an engagement of soul in this all-important exercise. I speak not here of *sensible* enjoyments in prayer,—lively frames of devotion, when our hearts burn within us, and our tongues catch the flame, and the whole soul pours forth in ardent aspirations of prayer and praise. Nor do I refer to peculiarly kind and pleasant emotions of godly sorrow, when the soul is graciously melted under the sweet influence of the

Spirit into repentance. These seasons are indeed precious moments, rich in blessing to the child of God; but they are usually brief and occasional refreshments by the way to support us. But I mean rather that stedfast continuance, that patient waiting on God in the unshaken conviction of his faithfulness and love, which brings honour to God, and which is no small evidence of spiritual health and strength, and of Divine grace with those in whom it is found. We are so prone to live continually by feelings, instead of living on the simple word of God, that when God shuts us up to them, and we have nothing else left us to animate our hopes, presently our hearts fail us; we give up prayer, or it is little more than unbelieving lamentations or complaints; we expect nothing from it." — GOODE ON LUKE xviii. ver. 1.

"Unless there be a resolute appointment of a certain time every day for entire seclusion and secret communion with God, and private devotional dwelling upon his Holy Word, there never can be much of real and spiritual nourishment in our ministry, or much of unction

in our ministrations, or much of Christ in our souls."—BLUNT'S LECTURES ON ELISHA.

"There is an alienation of mind from God which grows in us, if there be no effort of attention, no care, no vigilance, in the consideration of truth. And on the other hand, there is a spirituality of mind which is corroborated and advanced as we bestow pains on religion, and fix our thoughts and contemplations on its doctrines, under the teaching of the Holy Spirit."—ROBT. HALL ON ACTS xiv. 22.

"Man has a voluntary control over his thoughts. He *may* think of God when he chooses. He *may* bid his mind cease from its rambles, and lift itself up to the abode of the Eternal. He may lay an arrest on the processes of the inner man, and say to it, with authority, that now is the moment for an aspiration, or solemn feeling towards God. He may repeat and multiply this effort into a habit of seriousness. It may mix itself into his ordinary business. It may accompany him in his walk. It may season the hours of his social

fellowship, and what at first is difficult and rare, may, by dint of perseverance, settle itself into an habitual tendency.

“This is not the attitude of nature, but it may be tried and practised, and at length effectually learned. But you will never reach it unless you begin; you will never succeed in it unless you persevere; and, therefore, my plain advice to you is, that you now set about it in good earnest. Lay a mandate upon your thinking faculty, and send it heavenward to God. There is many an useless moment that may thus be turned to account; many an idle waste that may thus be reclaimed to sacredness. This is true spiritual education, the practice of godliness instead of the theory—the way by which the soul may at length be disciplined to the habit of setting God always before it.”—CHALMERS ON ISAIAH i. 3.

“Learn then, however men may speak of it, that the eternal salvation of a soul, although entirely the work of free and sovereign grace, is, to every individual, a matter of the extremest difficulty, and requiring the most earnest, persevering, intense application of all the

powers of the mind, and all the efforts of the will. Every declaration, even every single expression in the Word of God is calculated to convey this solemn truth. One Apostle declares that even the righteous shall *scarcely* be saved. Our Lord himself does not merely say 'strive to enter in at the strait gate,' as our translation renders it, but *agonize* to enter in.

"And can you hope that heartless efforts, cold prayers, listless endeavours, divided affections, will come up to the requirements which such words and such declarations convey? You feel that you cannot. 'Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth unto eternal life, and few there be that find it.'"—
BLUNT'S LECTURES ON THE HISTORY OF
OUR LORD.

"What is Prayer? It is the communion of the spiritual life in the soul of man with its Divine Author; it is the breathing back the Divine life into the bosom of God, from whence it came; it is holy, spiritual, humble converse with God. It is a talking with God as a child talketh with his father, as a friend converseth

with his friend, and the Lord talked with Moses. True prayer is the application of the renewed soul towards God ; it is the breathing of the divine life, sometimes in the accents of sorrow, sometimes as the expression of want, and always as the acknowledgment of dependence ; it is the looking up of a renewed, afflicted, necessitous and dependent child to its loving Father, in all the consciousness of utter weakness, and in all the sweetness of filial trust."—WINSLOW ON PERSONAL DECLENSION.

"It must be acknowledged by the spiritual mind, that all true prayer is of the inditing of the Spirit, that He is the author of all real approach of the soul to God. And yet how perpetually we need to be reminded of this. Prayer is one of the most spiritual employments that can possibly engage the mind. It is that holy act of the soul which brings it immediately in contact with a holy God. It has more directly to do with the 'High and Lofty One,' than any other exercise. It is the state of mind too that most deeply acknowledges its dependence on God. Prayer is the expression of *want*, it is the desire of *need*, the acknow-

ledgment of *poverty*, the language of *dependence*, the breathing of a soul that hath nothing in itself, but hangeth on God for all it wanteth. It must, therefore, be a highly spiritual exercise. But still more so will this appear, if we consider that true prayer is '*the breathing of the life of God in the soul of man.*' It is the Spirit dwelling and breathing in him. It is the new nature pouring out its vital principle, and that into the ear of God whence it came. It is the cry of the feeble child to the father it loves, and in all its conscious weakness, dependence, and need, pouring out the yearnings of its full heart into the bosom where dwells nothing but love. In a word, it is God and the creature meeting and blending in one act of blessed, holy and eternal fellowship."—WINSLOW'S THE INQUIRER DIRECTED.

"A true Christian knows well the nature and the value of prayer. Prayer is his intercourse with God; the source of his strength, and joy, and peace. Prayer is in truth the measure of his felicity. When dull, and cold, and heartless in this exercise of his spiritual faculties, he culls but scanty fruit from the

varied comforts of life, while he finds every temptation to evil augmented in its power and influence over his mind. When, on the other hand, his prayer is warm, fervent, and unremitting, all is quiet and joyful in his heart. The smile of God sheds its light over every object which he contemplates, and thus disarms the world of its power to disturb his peace."—GERARD NOEL ON HEB. iv. 16.

"The present life possesses a peculiar character. It is the seed time to a future harvest, and the nature of that harvest may be accurately ascertained by a reference to the seed which is now sown. The existing world is a place of education for a higher scene. Every action, therefore, and every sentiment, every mode and habit of thought and of conduct, bears a necessary connection with eternity. There is nothing perhaps, strictly speaking, morally indifferent. Every thing touches upon this eternal discipline. Every thing either aggravates evil, or augments good. Every thing tends either to elevate the soul towards its everlasting rest, or to depress it towards its final uneasiness. That is, we grow more like

God, or more opposed to God, by every breath we draw, by every feeling we indulge, by every object we pursue, by every circumstance in which we are involved.”—GERARD NOEL on GAL. vi. 2—8.

“Prayer is the intercourse of affection and confidence, the channel of divine mercy. It can only exist in the heart which delights and rejoices in God. It is a spiritual exercise which is the result of a holy state of the affections. It is the breaking forth of holy wishes and aspirations, it is the actual approach of the soul to God. It will, therefore, be an intercourse with which other acts of the individual will harmonise. There will be a holy character and a holy conduct, where prayer is really in exercise. . . . Prayer is, in fact, what the Scriptures call ‘fellowship with God.’ It is the lively expression of love, and of confidence, and of union with God. It is intended of God to strengthen and refresh, and recruit the spiritual faculties of the soul. It is in prayer that God enlightens, purifies, exalts and consecrates the Christian to himself. And God never mentions the subject of prayer in the

Scriptures, but as the greatest of our privileges and blessings; 'When thou enterest into thy closet, shut the door, and pray to thy Father, which seeth in secret.' O solemn, holy, affectionate, and free be thy intercourse with such a Being."—GERARD NOEL ON PHIL. ii. 12.

PRAYER I.

O Almighty God, the fountain of all blessedness, the giver of all good ; thou knowest the vileness of my nature, the stubbornness of my will, the darkness of my understanding, and the depravity of my heart. Stretch forth thy mighty arm of salvation, and, for thy tender mercies sake in Jesus Christ, enlighten my mind, regulate my disordered affections, and make me a new creature to the praise of thy grace. Impart to me, I beseech thee, a seeking spirit ; carry on, O Lord, the work of grace with power ; let my soul be filled with gladness, and my mouth with praise.

From this day forth may I have grace never to trifle with sin ; never to cherish any sin, under the false notion that it is a little one ; but, O Lord, give me, in

mercy, a deeper sense of sin, a greater abhorrence of it; destroy its reigning power in my heart, enable me to resist its rebellions, and to subdue its lustings.

Preserve me, O Lord, from resting in the mere forms of religion. Give me true repentance and faith, that I may rightly receive the blessings thou hast promised to impart through the ordinances of thy gospel. Let me not be satisfied with a name to live, while dead in thy sight. Aware of the alarming power of the enemy of souls, his mysterious access to the mind, imagination, and desires; (O what hard thoughts of God are created by the powers of darkness!) nothing but the blood of Christ, applied by faith, can quench the fiery darts of the wicked one. Lord, undertake for me, save me from the malice of my spiritual foes. Through thy strength alone shall I prevail. Though they hinder spiritual meditations, though they drive me from the

mercy-seat, stop the current of holy thoughts, and bring doubts and fears into the mind; O my Saviour, arm me with power from on high, that, in thy strength, I may resist the enemy, that he may flee from me. Give me the spirit of a little child, clothe me with humility, teach me to do thy will. What I cannot comprehend, give me grace to believe. Enable me daily to repose my soul on thy promises. I know that all good comes from thee, all evil from myself.

Gracious Saviour, in the fulness of thy grace, thou hast invited me to take of the living waters freely. I desire to come at thy command. O save me for thy mercy's sake! Let my soul be humbled in the dust that I should ever have doubted the veracity, or distrusted the faithfulness of God, or the grace of the Saviour, which is divine in its nature, infinite in its resources, and inexhaustible in its supply. O let my desire ever be

that larger supplies of this grace may daily be vouchsafed to me, may I live upon it constantly, draw from it largely, and magnify it holily; remembering that it is God's delight, as it is his glory, to prove the sufficiency and power of his grace in Christ Jesus to save man to the uttermost.

O Lord, enrich my soul with such a holy, lively and unfeigned faith as may tend to enlighten my mind, purify my heart, and influence my life; such a faith as may enable me to receive Jesus Christ as my Saviour, and heartily to give up myself to him as my Lord, that being renewed and sanctified by him in this life, I may be for ever saved and glorified by him in the life that is to come. Amen.

PRAYER II.

Blessed Lord, I once more draw near to thy footstool, under a sense of manifold wants, and of thy power and goodness to supply all my need. O that I may listen to and obey thy Spirit speaking to my heart and conscience. All saving, abiding impressions are from thee. Melt my hard heart, and mould it to thy will. Enlighten my dark mind, and fill it with thy truth. Keep me from false views of my real condition, as a fallen creature, lying under the curse, and lead me to the Saviour. Unite my soul to him, and make me a monument of his love.

Crucify, I pray thee, every unholy affection, modify every unhallowed inclination, wean my heart from earth, and bind my soul to thee. All thy dispensations, O Lord, have a voice, they speak

either in mercy or in judgment. Lord, make me conversant with death, let me not shrink from looking into the grave, sanctified as it is through the body of Christ. O that He may dwell in my heart by faith, that the Spirit of truth may take up his abode within me; then shall I have light, and love, and peace, and all other blessings flowing from the covenant of grace.

But, Lord, each day I have to mourn over spiritual insensibility. I want to feel my heart alive to God. I want to experience that indescribable emotion of contrition and peace, which exists in the heart of the penitent believer, and with which a stranger intermeddleth not. Lord, give me a more saving knowledge of thyself, and a growing desire for spiritual blessings. Come, thou blessed Spirit of all grace, with thy saving power; come into my soul, destroy every sinful inclination, help me to be vigilant against

my spiritual adversary, grant me the spirit of watchfulness and prayer, that I may be able to stand in the evil day. Leave me not, for a moment, lest I fall. Save me from my secret faults, to which I may be blind, through the deceitfulness of sin. O Lord, give me a holy courage in thy cause, a holy confidence in thy mercy, and a holy consolation in thy great and precious promises. Grant me that chastened temper which ever yields to the influence of love, and displays itself in the spirit of love in all I do or say.

O disengage my heart from earthly objects, and enable me to rise to high and spiritual contemplations. Let me be anxious to know whether thou, O Lord, hast the ascendancy in my heart; whether there be a solemnity in my spirit, because of God, which follows me wherever I go, and causes me to walk with him in all holy obedience.

O that I could feel as I ought, and set forth the love of the Redeemer, the deep and precious love of Christ. Equal in its eternity, its immensity, its freeness, and its unchangeableness, with the Father's love.

Lord, let my views of divine truth grow day by day more enlarged, connected, and comprehensive; thus may I go from strength to strength, and a divine light shine upon my path, till by the multitude of thy mercies and the power of divine grace, I may at length be presented unblameable before thee in the day of Christ's appearing. May I know that Jesus is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, watching over me in the wilderness every hour in the fulness of his love, the riches of his grace, and the depths of his heavenly wisdom; so may I be strengthened to endure to the end in the way to his eternal joy, for his name's sake. Amen.

PRAYER III.

Lord of all grace and goodness, let my mind be solemnized while I draw near to thee in prayer. O my soul, what is thy aim, thy great concern? Through manifold infirmities, art thou striving to enter into the rest which remaineth for the people of God? Art thou fighting the good fight of faith? Alas, I feel my utter weakness and total insufficiency even to think a good thought. I am faint, by reason of indwelling sin. What a corrupt fountain is my heart—Lord, do thou cleanse it. I long after absolute holiness. I know that to be like my Saviour is to be blessed. Lord, may I be cleansed from all my sin, through thy most precious blood.

O for a strong and vigorous faith to lay hold upon the promises. Heavenly

Father, make me sincere in my self-examinations. May I so come to the light that my whole heart may be searched, and every lurking evil be discovered; may thy love be shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Ghost, that heart by nature alienated and at enmity against thee, for herein is the essence and principle of all godliness.

Come, thou gracious Saviour, into this ungrateful heart, which has so long kept thee without, while every vanity has found a ready entrance. Come in by thy Spirit, manifest thyself in all the glory of thy immeasurable grace, to my unworthy but longing soul. How vast is thy grace, large enough to cover all my guilt, to bring me to life and blessedness, infinite, everlasting.

O my soul, hast thou made discoveries of the extent of redeeming love? Is the contemplation of it sweet to thy soul? And is thy sense of its preciousness and simple reliance on it growing daily?

Blessed Jesus, enable me to glorify thee; give me a holy courage in thy cause, a cheerful resignation to thy will. Save me from lukewarmness, keep me from error, and enable me to distinguish between doctrines of men and the truths of thy holy word. Preserve me from a temporising spirit. May I boldly declare my trust in thee, my love to thee, and my zeal for thy glory.

Heavenly Father, keep thy weak and erring child, let none of thy dispensations fail of the gracious end for which they are sent. But O may every cross, and every affliction which thou art pleased to mingle in my cup, conform me more to my Saviour's image, restrain my heart from its daily wanderings, endear thy holy word and ways to my soul, and give me sweet anticipations of that blessed place where I shall never wander more, but find my eternal happiness in keeping thy word. Oh that I could realise the

full enjoyment of those spiritual privileges, which nourish and sustain the soul, and know what it is to possess real, intimate, and living relationship to Christ.

Give me, O Lord, a tender conscience, awake to every danger that may disturb my peace; and grant that all evil thoughts may be rooted out and destroyed.

Blessed Lord, enable me to see thy hand in all thy dealings with me, and to believe that all is under a divine direction, and all dispensed with the wisest and kindest design. Help me to look into my heart to see what grace is called into exercise for improvement, and what corruption rises up which is to be mortified; and seeing that God searcheth the heart and trieth the spirit, my hope, my only hope is in thee. Help me in all my struggles with my spiritual enemies, and at the last great day may I be found among thy saints in glory everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER IV.

Blessed Lord, who hast renewed thy mercies to me, unto thee would I lift up my soul in prayer. Surrounded as I am with means of instruction, let me be anxious to know what progress I have made in the way of thy statutes.

O Almighty and all-quickenng Spirit, take away the love and power of sin, fill me with gracious and heavenly desires and with holy longing after Christ. I want to feel my soul to be all alive to God; my affections to be ever on the wing to Christ, my will to be ever inclined to choose his law and to bear his yoke. O, blessed Saviour, all my fresh springs are in thee; without thee I can do nothing. Replenish my soul out of thy fulness. Pour into my heart those living

streams which make glad the city of our God.

O thou God of my salvation, enable me to glorify thee by an unshaken faith in thy promises, remembering all the way the Lord hath led thee, to prove thee, to know what was in thy heart. All praise to sovereign grace ; there is treasured up in Jesus such a fulness of mercy and power, and such a freeness of will to bestow, as shall exceed my greatest necessities.

O my soul, art thou looking to Jesus, art thou longing to obtain an interest in his blood? Blessed truth, the promises of God are yea and amen, in Christ Jesus. O thou Eternal Spirit, renew my soul in righteousness, fill me with light and love. Guard me against self-deception, deliver me from false views of religion, and false marks of grace. Give me a new heart, that in simplicity and godly sincerity I may live a life of

faith on earth, and live a life of glory with thee in heaven. O my soul, are these thy feelings and views? Art thou panting after Christ,—art thou hungering and thirsting after righteousness? Is sin thy burden,—is purity thy delight? Happy indeed is he who can in humility and sincerity say, I desire above all things to love Jesus, and to repose my soul fully and entirely upon him. O thou all-gracious Redeemer, now that thou art in heaven, look in love and pity on my wants and weaknesses, my guilt and corruption. O save me, grant me repentance unto life. Lord, the work is all thy own, and the whole glory shall be thine. O my soul, remember that the God with whom thou hast to do is a holy God. Watch then against sin; the way to escape it is to live in the daily enjoyment of peace with God, and to realize what Christ has done to procure it. May I feed daily on Christ, clothe myself with

him as with a garment, count him my treasure house of all the grace I need. May I feel that I am delivered from all the dread of the law, and its dreadful curse; so that confessing my wickedness and desert of wrath, I may rejoice in life as mine by the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

I desire to bear upon my heart at a throne of grace all who are near and dear to me. O let not one be a stranger to thee or the work of thy grace upon the heart. May they value the gift of a Saviour, and so follow him here that we may all meet together in heaven. And, O Lord, refresh the bodies and souls of all thy faithful ministers; comfort them in their trials, guide them through all their difficulties, and strengthen them for their great work; that sinners may be converted, Christ glorified, and souls saved. Hear, Lord, and answer, for Christ's sake. Amen.

PRAYER V.

O thou adorable and blessed Saviour, encouraged by thy grace, by thy precious promises and everlasting love; yea, emboldened by the calls and invitations of thy word, I come, beseeching thee to pardon all my sins, to give me a new heart. O fill me with thy heavenly Spirit!

How blessed are they who fear thy name, who believe with the heart unto righteousness, who love thee above all created things. How precious is thy holy word. Enable me, gracious God, to understand its truths, to practise its precepts, to delight in its promises, that my faith may be confirmed and strengthened, to resist the attacks of Satan, the fear of man, and the corruptions of my own heart. Shield me, O Lord, by thy power; cheer me with thy presence, and uphold

my goings in thy way. Impart that spiritual illumination which will direct me aright; that spiritual strength which will enable me to endure to the end, and that experience of thy love which will support me under every trial. O that I might have Christ dwelling in my heart, manifesting himself continually to me in love; putting forth his grace and strength in me, instructing and cheering me by his Spirit, and sweetly disposing me to all holy affections towards him, as my most gracious and glorious God; yea, that I might have the real enjoyment of Christ by faith—daily, personal intercourse with him in love, by his taking possession of that heart, which was created to be his throne, his dwelling-place, which none but himself can fill. Solemnize my mind with a sense of the uncertainty of life; yea, give me to live ever with eternity in view. I desire to bear on my heart dear friends who may be under thy afflictive

hand ; I know that all our trials are under thy gracious management, and are appointed to prove, manifest and purify the graces of thy own children. Lord, do thou help them in the time of their affliction, heal the wound thou hast seen fit to inflict, and bless to their souls' good the visitation under which they are now suffering.

O blessed Jesus, help me ever to take refuge in thee. May each day bring with it an increased supply of spiritual strength ; deliverance from the power of sin, the subjugation of the evil tempers and passions which belong to my sinful nature, that I may walk more closely with thee in all holy obedience.

O that I might possess such lively faith as may enable me to overcome the world, raise my heart from visible to invisible things, from the objects of the present moment to the hopes held out to the future. May I discern the hand of God

in all things, so that I may live in a wakeful consciousness that I am ever in his presence, living under the eye of a loving Father, reverencing him with a holy fear, looking to him for counsel and aid, and trusting him in every time of need. Be with me, O Lord, in every duty, guide me in every perplexity, carry me through every difficulty. Send, O Lord, thy Holy Spirit with such power as shall subdue the fleshly lusts of my heart, and rescue me from the power of sin. May I be enabled to exhibit the power of godliness in my life, in controlling my passions, subduing my temper, and regulating all my actions. O my God, strengthen me effectually by thy grace in the inner man for every purpose of spiritual life, and make me thine in Christ Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER VI.

O thou Almighty and all-seeing God, whose eyes are in every place beholding the evil and the good. I cast myself at the footstool of thy mercy, and entreat thee to look upon me in thy great compassion. I desire, although in much infirmity, ever to come to Jesus for pardon and peace, ever cleaving only unto the hope set before me by his precious bloodshedding and his perfect righteousness. O may the sweet assurance, that "He careth for me," be my strength and comfort in the days of my pilgrimage, casting myself upon him, as my all-sufficient Saviour.

May the Lord, by faith, give me an abiding evidence of the reality and importance of unseen things, that I may be enabled to live above the world, and to

maintain the cause of God in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation. Let me be emptied of self, and derive all my sufficiency from Jesus, the fountain of all grace, that I may each day become more acquainted with the power, sufficiency, compassion, and grace of my adorable Redeemer; my heart more habitually humbled, under a sense of inward depravity, my temper more softened, and my prevailing desires more spiritual and holy.

The hour is coming when all the impediments to the advancement of spiritual life in the soul shall be removed,—all distinctions founded on sublunary things shall cease; when the earth and all its works shall be burnt up. O glorious day, may my soul be filled with the thought, and may I learn to estimate all things by the view in which they shall then appear.

Teach me, O heavenly Father, to strive daily for greater conformity to thy mind

and will. O remove every cloud of sin and unbelief, that would hide thee from my view. Grant me thy Almighty Spirit to sustain me in my spiritual warfare, and to keep eternal things in constant view before my mind, seeking not only to be delivered from the punishment of sin, but earnestly praying to be freed from its power. O for daily supplies of divine grace, which alone can preserve my soul in spiritual life and holy obedience. O for that real inward principle of sanctification, which will lead me to consecrate myself entirely to God.

I mourn to think how much the things of the world prevail to draw my heart from thee, what trifles interrupt my communion with thee. O deliver me from a worldly spirit, and let me ever feel that this is not my rest.

O Lord, help me to realise the fact that I have indeed passed from a state of estrangement, to a state of intimacy with

thee,—from the terror of condemnation, to an affecting sense of thy favour, friendship, and reconciled presence,—from the influence of earthly things, to the influence of those new and heavenly principles, which the Spirit of God establishes in the heart of every true believer.

O may I daily feel a stronger sense of the necessity of divine assistance, to carry me through, and enable me to fulfil each day's duties, for increasing light in reading thy holy word, and for an enlarged desire to live nearer to him who has done and suffered so much for my sake. May every faculty of my nature and every emotion of my soul be consecrated to God, and day after day proclaim to the sincerity and increase of my love and devotedness to my Redeemer, and to him shall be all the glory both now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR SUNDAY MORNING.

O thou adorable and exalted Saviour, how great is thy mercy, pity, and love, in permitting sinners to approach thy footstool. Enable me, I pray thee, to see my own deformity; to behold thy beauty, fitness, and fulness. Enable me to speak thy praise, and to tell of thy wondrous works, and everlasting love. Let my mind and will be, on this thy holy day, under the guidance of thy good Spirit, so that every thought may be brought into the obedience of Christ. Keep me, I pray thee, O Lord, from the assaults of Satan, the suggestions of unbelief, and the uprisings of sinful thoughts. Grant me a sanctified memory, as well as a believing heart. O may light from above break in upon me. Enlarge my desires, increase

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my faith, bestow upon me the wisdom that cometh from above. Stablish me in thy truth, and give me brighter views of the day of Christ, that I may be conformed to his likeness, and be endued with his holy mind. I entreat thee, blessed Lord, so to work faith in me that all the riches of redeeming love may be mine, and that I may find daily supplies in the promises of thy holy word, which are yea, and amen, to the glory of God. O thou Eternal Spirit of all grace and truth, display thy saving power in my salvation, convince me of sin, lead me to the garden of Gethsemane; there may I behold my dying Redeemer, there may my heart be melted to penitence and love, and made wholly and entirely thine.

O my soul, hast thou experienced the transforming grace, through a believing reception of Christ crucified; rest not in forms, cease from man, let all thy hope and confidence be in God. O Lord, let

not my heart be unvisited for one day, one hour, by that melting energy of love, which first made me feel, and constrained me to devote myself to thee. Blessed Lord, enable me to lie passive in thy hands. Hide me under the shadow of thy wings. Wean my heart from all earthly vanities. Reveal thyself to me, in all thy fulness, through a believing view of the truth as it is in Jesus. O Lord, fill me with faith, hope, and love, till faith be lost in vision, hope in enjoyment, and love be for ever perfected.

Grant, Lord, that my mind may be this day free from all worldly care. May I go to thy house of prayer, and enjoy union and communion with thee. Reveal to my soul more and more of the love of Christ. Send down thy Holy Spirit, that I may hunger and thirst after thee, the fountain of living waters. May a sense of thy favour, O Lord, pervade all the duties and privileges of this thy holy day.

40 PRAYER FOR SUNDAY MORNING.

May it be the sweetest of all thoughts that thou art ever present with thy waiting people ; that though unseen to the eye of sense, the eye of faith may realise thy gracious presence, experience the power of thy salvation, and the fulness of all thy precious promises. And O thou God of all grace, renew and cherish in my soul the divine life, the only true and happy life of faith and love to thee. May I feel more of the constraining power of thy love, drawing me nearer to heaven, and fitting me for a more holy communion with God. Extend the kingdom of thy dear Son. Bless all the ministers of thy gospel, pour upon them the gracious influences of thy Spirit. May they receive such abundant supplies of grace and strength, that their labours may be blessed, and thy cause promoted throughout the earth. Grant all these mercies for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

PRAYER FOR SUNDAY EVENING.

Great and glorious God, I desire, at the close of another Sabbath day, to draw nigh to thee, through our gracious High Priest. I cry unto thee as a weak and helpless creature, whose desire it is to grow daily in grace. O grant me an abundant supply of thy spirit, to subdue the power of the flesh, and to nourish the hidden life within.

Give me a heart to feel the love of Christ, to comprehend the riches of redeeming love, and to act as one who has been made a partaker of so great a benefit. Give me such an ardent love for holiness, as may incline me to press on after an abundant entrance into thy heavenly kingdom. Vouchsafe, O thou adorable Redeemer, to come to me by a more inti-

42 PRAYER FOR SUNDAY EVENING.

mate and spiritual union, for of myself I cannot move one step towards thee. Unite myself to thee in all holy obedience. Let thine ears be open to my prayers, thy merciful eyes look upon my misery, and thy gracious hands be stretched out to my relief and succour.

I come to thee, blessed Lord, pleading thy own promise—"Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out." I come with my heart, such as it is, beseeching thee that, by the operation of thy Spirit, and the power of sanctifying faith, it may be made such as it should be. O how great has been the goodness, truth, and mercy of my God to an unworthy sinner, this day. Lord, make me grateful, give me a believing, loving heart. Mould my will to thine, and enable me in all things to seek thy glory. O for a simple dependence on the teaching and influence of the good Spirit of God, to enable me to walk with Him in the daily occurrences

of life, so as to do every thing for his sake and in his strength. I feel, O Lord, that there are so many snares, hindrances and temptations arising from without, and so much opposition from the sin which dwells within, that I may have deep cause for humiliation and self-abasement.

Come, O thou blessed Redeemer, be thou my preserver, my eternal portion. Make me willing to choose thee, to love and serve thee with all my powers. Take full possession of my heart. Wash me from all my sins in thy most precious blood, clothe me with thy righteousness, fill me with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, and enable me to live to thee alone, to seek my all in thee, to commit myself, body, soul and spirit, into thy hands, to be sanctified, governed and preserved through thy grace, to the glory of thy name.

I thank thee, heavenly Father, that I

44 PRAYER FOR SUNDAY EVENING.

have been permitted to enjoy the privilege of another Sabbath day. A day set apart for comfort and communion with thee. I pray for greater enlargement of soul in thy service, for an increase of faith in thy precious promises, and such a growing love to thee, O blessed Jesus, as may raise me above the cares and troubles of this ever-changing scene, and prepare me for the inheritance of the saints in light. May thy Holy Spirit cherish and confirm in me whatever of holy desires after a more intense devotedness to thee may have this day been felt in thy service. May I be strengthened and refreshed for duty, and be prepared for conflict and endurance. Grant that I may be more meek and lowly in heart, and more spiritually minded. Let each day confirm in me more and more the infinite obligations by which I am bound to love and serve thee. If any godly sorrow for sin, any lively faith in thy adorable per-

son, have been this day excited, to thy name be all the praise. O to be filled with a constraining sense of the love of Christ, and the value of the immortal soul!

Bless and prosper the labours of all thy faithful ministers. Pour out upon them a large measure of thy Spirit, and strengthen them for their important work. Give success to all Missionary efforts, and hasten the happy period when all the kingdoms of the earth shall become one fold, under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Mercifully accept me in Christ Jesus, and daily renew and sanctify me by the power of the Holy Ghost, to whom be ascribed equal glory with the Father and Son, now and for ever. Amen.



SHORT PETITIONS

IN TIME OF

TRIAL, SICKNESS, AND BEREAVEMENT.

O merciful Father, who scourgest those thou lovest, and chastisest those whom thou wilt receive into thyself; let thy loving correction, in whatever shape it may be made manifest, purify me from sin; lead me to the rock of my salvation, and make me thereby more and more a partaker of thy holiness.

If darkness, distress and trial be my lot, O let me trust in the name of the Lord, and stay myself on the God of my salvation. May I rely on his almighty power to save, in his tender inclination to pity, and in the sure promises he has

made to all who truly wait and call upon him.

O merciful Lord, who didst send sorrow and tears, sickness and death, into the world as a punishment for man's sin, not to destroy, but that thou mightest have mercy, making affliction minister to our eternal weight of glory. Thou hast been pleased to lay thine hand upon one near and dear to me. Lord, be merciful unto him [*or her*]; support his spirit, direct his thoughts continually to thee, make all his bed in his sickness, and let thy gracious and encouraging promises be experienced by him in all their fulness. Bless, I pray thee, O Lord, the means used for his recovery, and, if it please thee, may he be again restored to us, to praise and magnify thy holy name.

May the Holy Spirit, the only effectual

Teacher, direct my mind to the promises of Scripture, and apply them by his gracious influence, that I may be able to leave the result of all my trials and perplexities in the hands of that all-sufficient Saviour, whose ways are truth and mercy, who is all-wise to appoint, almighty to relieve, and all-compassionate to sympathise and support. May it ever be my sweetest source of consolation in the midst of trial and sorrow to know, that thou, O Lord, reignest in perfect righteousness.

Heavenly Father, let none of thy dispensations fail of the gracious end for which they were sent. May every cross thou art pleased to mingle in my cup, conform me more to thine own image, restrain my heart from wandering from thee, and endear to me the Saviour. Help me to build all my hopes on Christ, who is the same yesterday, to-day, and for

ever, and who has promised to be with his people even to the end of the world.

O Lord, the Father of our spirits, the giver of life and breath and all things, I would commend to thy compassionate mercy the sick and afflicted, the tried and the tempted. Be thou their support, the stay of their hope, and the rock of their salvation. May they meekly resign their will to thine, that they may patiently endure what thou seest fit to lay upon them; submit to thine appointments, with their minds stedfastly fixed upon him, who has led the way through the grave into heaven.

EJACULATORY PRAYER.

“Ejaculatory Prayer is that holy habit of a growing Christian, while in the world, and diligently engaged in its lawful callings, yet keeps him soaring above it; which sustains the wheels of the soul in easy and constant motion, preserves it in a holy, heavenly frame, fortifies it against the surprisals of the adversary, and strengthens it in every inward and outward conflict.”—WINSLOW ON PERSONAL DECLENSION.

“Were we acquainted with the way of intermixing holy thoughts, ejaculatory sayings of God, in our ordinary ways, it would keep the heart in a sweet temper all the day long, and have an excellent influence in all our ordinary actions and holy performances.”—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

EJACULATORY PRAYERS.

“Cleanse thou me from secret faults :
keep back thy servant from presumptuous
sins : let them not have dominion over
me.”

“Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my
voice : have mercy also upon me, and
answer me.”

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead
me in a plain path.”

“Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon
me : Lord, be thou my helper.”

“Make thy face to shine upon thy ser-
vant : save me for thy mercy’s sake.”

“Lord, all my desire is before thee,
and my groaning is not hid from thee.”

“Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me :
O Lord, make haste to help me.”

“O send out thy light and thy truth, let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill and to thy tabernacles.”

“Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.”

“Hide thy face from my sin, and blot out all my iniquity.”

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

“Thy vows are upon me, O Lord: I will render praise unto thee.”

O for the enjoyment of those seasons of refreshment, those glances of light and power upon the soul, which arise from clearer views of divine grace!

May my heart be athirst for God, for his glory, his image, his presence.

O for daily supplies of Divine grace, which alone can preserve my soul in spiritual life!

May every cloud of sin and unbelief, that would hide the Saviour from my view, be removed.

Lord, it is my daily prayer that thou wouldst impart largely to me of the sanctifying influences of thy grace and Spirit.]

Blessed Saviour, may I this day enjoy union and communion with thee. May a sense of thy favour pervade all its duties, sanctify its blessings, and lighten its trials.

Lord, it is my desire daily to grow in grace, to become more free from sin, more pure in heart, and more like my Lord and Saviour.

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